

SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 2C03: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University
Spring 2016

Time and Location: Tu/Th BSB B135, 1:30 – 4:20 pm

Instructor:

Dr. Julie Conder

Email: conderj@mcmaster.ca

Office: PC 232 (dial 22853 for access)

Office hours: Thursday 11-12, or by appointment

Textbook (required): Aronson, Wilson, Fehr, & Akert. *Social Psychology*, 5th, Canadian edition.

iClickers (required): You must have an iClicker for this course. If you do not already have an iClicker, you may purchase one through the campus bookstore. iClicker points will be in effect as of the second lecture. **Please note:** If you forget your iClicker, or its batteries die during a lecture, you will lose the iClicker points for that lecture. It is a good idea to carry extra batteries!

Emailing Me: All email must be sent from your **mcmaster.ca** account. Please do not send email from the Avenue system, or from your gmail/hotmail account. Email from non-mcmaster accounts or from the Avenue system will not be responded to.

Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to the field of social psychology. We will cover both research and theory across the semester. By the end of the course, you will be able to: understand the research methods used in social psychology, identify key researchers and classic studies in the field, identify and understand key theoretical perspectives in social psychology, and gain an appreciation for the value and meaning of this research in our everyday lives.

**Please note that information contained in this syllabus is subject to change.

Course Website:

Course announcements and updates will be posted on the course website on Avenue to Learn. Please check Avenue frequently to make sure you are up to date. The website also contains a Discussion board, which I strongly encourage you to use to discuss course content with your peers and myself. If you have a question, post it! It's likely that other students have the same question. If you have an answer to someone else's question, feel free to post it; explaining concepts to your peers is a great way to solidify your own knowledge. Keep in mind that it is important to treat others with respect on this board; inappropriate posts will be deleted.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be based on two exams (midterm and final), and in-class iClicker quiz questions.

Midterm: 40% of final grade

The midterm will cover all material covered from the beginning of class to midterm. The midterm will be 90 minutes and will be followed by a 20-minute break. Lecture will continue following the break.

Final: 50% of final grade

The final exam will cover all material from the beginning of class to the end of class. The final is cumulative, but will emphasize the material from the second half of the course.

iClicker quiz questions: 10% of final grade

We will have 2 iClicker quiz questions during each class session (excluding the first day of class and the final). Each question is worth a maximum of 2 points for a total of 24 points. Your total score on these questions out of 24 will be worth 10% of your grade.

Schedule and Readings:

This is a 7-week Spring semester course. It is imperative that you attend class and keep up with your readings. If you don't, you may fall behind EXTREMELY quickly. You will be tested on reading content through in-class iClicker questions, and your exams. **You are responsible for textbook content contained in the assigned readings, even if it is not covered in class.**

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Refer to updates in class and on Avenue.

Week 1:

May 3 and 5: Introduction; Research Methods; Conformity

Readings: Chapters 1 & 2; Chapter 7 (193-219, and 222-232); Chapter 10 (327-332)

Week 2:

May 10 and 12: Persuasion; Prosocial Behaviour

Readings: Chapter 7 (220-222); Chapter 6 (163-174); Chapter 10 (minus 327-332)

Week 3:

May 17 and 19: Aggression; Prejudice

Readings: Chapter 11; Chapter 12

Week 4:

May 24: Self and Self Esteem

Readings: Chapters 3 & 5

MIDTERM EXAM: MAY 26, in class time, Location TBA (Lecture will be held following the exam)

Week 5:

May 31 and June 2: Self and Self Esteem continued; Attribution Theory

Readings: Chapters 3 & 5; Chapter 4

Week 6:

June 7 and 9: Dissonance Theory; Group Behaviour

Readings: Chapter 6; Chapter 8

Week 7:

June 14: Close Relationships

Readings: Chapter 9

FINAL EXAM: JUNE 16, in class time, Location TBA**Exams:**

During exams, you may bring writing instruments, erasers, and essentials like water and tissues to your desk. You must also bring your student ID card. All other materials, especially electronics and cell phones, must be left in your bag. If your cell phone rings or buzzes during the exam, you will **lose 5% on the exam**. Make sure you turn it off!

Missed Exams:

In a 7-week course, you cannot hope to keep up if you miss the midterm. Please make every effort not to miss the midterm! **If you are extremely ill or contagious, report your absence to McMaster and to Dr. Conder immediately.** If you do not report your absence within **two days** of the missed exam, accommodations may not be granted. Makeup exams will be held as soon as possible after the original test, during class time or by other arrangements. No requests for special consideration will be considered **after one week** has elapsed (i.e., you will receive a mark of zero on the missed exam).

Reporting an Absence:

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) cannot be used to report absences in this course (anything worth more than 29% requires a visit to your Associate Dean's office with proper documentation). Once you have visited your Associate Dean's office with adequate documentation, you will be given a link to a special MSAF which you can fill out and send to Dr. Conder.

What if you miss the make-up exam?

If you miss the make-up exam due to prolonged illness or crisis, you must report your absence from both the exam and the make-up exam to your Faculty or Program Office **within two days of the make-up exam**. If you fail to do this, you will receive a grade of zero on the missed work. If you can provide an acceptable excuse for missing the test, with documentation, you will be given a late make-up exam in an alternate version. If you miss the midterm exam entirely, you are likely to fail the course. Please seek academic advising if this happens to you.

Final Grade Calculations

Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade according to the following scheme:

Percentage (Grade)	Percentage (Grade)	Percentage (Grade)	Percentage (Grade)
90-100 (A+)	77-79 (B+)	67-69 (C+)	57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, such as a grade of zero on an assignment or exam, loss of course credit with notation on your transcript (“grade F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is *your* responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.